



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/)

For Immediate Release  
May 20, 2004

Contact: Scott Ray  
(517) 373-7670

## **Personal Privacy Protection Act passes Senate** *Updating “peeping-tom” laws*

**LANSING** – Michigan residents are closer to having greater protections placed on their privacy under legislation passed today by the Michigan Senate.

“Laws protecting personal privacy have not kept up with the creation and wide-spread availability of electronic technology,” said bill sponsor Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township. “Things as seemingly innocent as miniature cameras and camera phones can be used by sexual predators to rob individuals of their personal privacy.

“My legislation aims to protect the personal privacy of our wives and daughters by providing prosecutors with the legal tools needed to deter would-be offenders and punish those who use such gadgetry for voyeuristic purposes,” said Sanborn, member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Recent testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee was compelling and emotional in its support of the legislation. One victim spoke of the emotional and psychological devastation that was wrought as a result of being covertly taped while in a restroom and dressing area of a private residence. A representative of the Michigan Association of Prosecuting Attorneys also testified to the need for more up-to-date statutes and stiffer penalties in order to deter and punish perpetrators of what is seen as a growing problem.

Senate Bill 918 creates specific prohibitions and criminal penalties for acts of electronic voyeurism. Those acts include capturing or transmitting a visual image of a person undressed or wearing only undergarments. Examples of circumstances or places where one might normally have such an expectation are private or public restrooms, showers, tanning beds and locker rooms.

Sanborn’s legislation also prohibits and creates stronger penalties for distributing such images, and provides stronger penalties for repeat offenders.

###